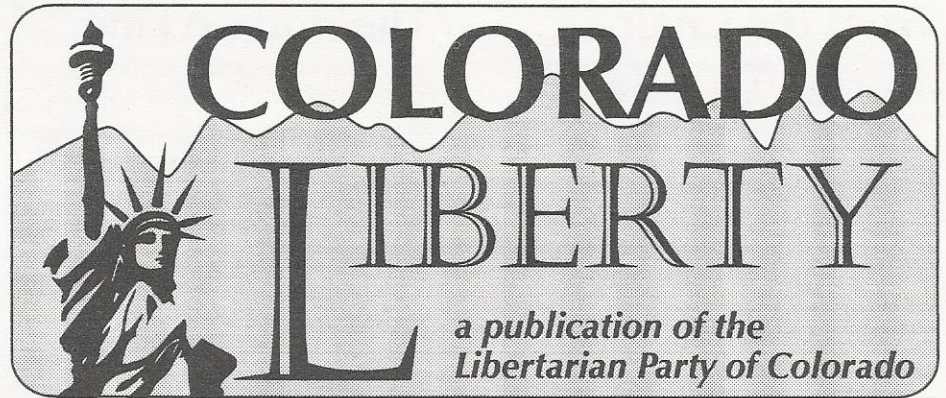


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Volume XIX, Number 6
<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

June, 1998

Convention 1998 Builds Freedom

Libertarians from all over Colorado gathered in Convention at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel April 24-26. Here (and scattered throughout this issue) are pictures of some of the highlights of the Convention.



David Nolan, founder of the LP, wrapped things up Sunday afternoon with a mind-changing exposition on millennial expectations and possibilities.



Gene Cisewski, leader of Victory 2000, spoke eloquently about the need to build our party from the grassroots up.



David Bryant received the Libertarian of the Year award from BetteRose Smith.



Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger gave the opening keynote.



Bonnie Flickinger, Moreno Valley, CA city councilperson, talked about getting elected as a Libertarian.



BetteRose Smith and Michele Bethke led one of the many excellent seminars.



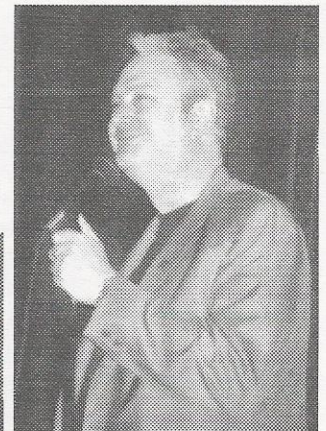
Sandra Johnson, outgoing LPCO Chair, enjoyed a big bouquet given her by her fellow board members.



Dick Boddie gave hints on attracting non-traditional libertarians.



A newly dreadlock-less Tim Slagle grins during a joke while his appreciative Friday-night audience laughs.



From the Chair

A friend once told me that a miracle is nothing more than a natural phenomenon occurring at the right time, in the right place.

Sometimes, way up in the North Atlantic, the wind blows so hard, it whips small droplets of water into the air. In winter it gets so cold, that these tiny bits of ocean crystallize and fall back to earth like snow. I believe that Libertarian Politicians are a lot like "saltwater snow," a true phenomenon when it happens, but it does happen.

We hear about BATF agents who torch a peaceful commune, and we feel the chill. When the federal government passes another 2000 new laws, a gentle breeze becomes a wind. A high school graduate we know can't understand 7th grade math, and it gets a little colder. Pat Bowlen gets away with robbing from the poorest of people, and now that wind begins to whip. IRS agents get away with molesting young women, and the temperature drops another notch. People who smoke cigarettes are expected to carry the tax burden for yet another failed social program, and it gets colder still. Because pot smokers fill overcrowded jails, violent criminals get out on early parole, and you wonder if it can get any colder.

When many of us registered as Libertarians, it was because we valued our privacy, not because we wanted to run for public office. Many of us are no more interested in getting involved in the "business of government" than we are in having the "government involved in our business." We will vote for libertarian people, but we may not be ready to be the candidate.

I realize that it's a big step to get up on the "Soap Box", but when you put your children to bed tonight, I'd like you to look at them and ask yourself, How cold does it have to get to make saltwater snow?

Michele Bethke, Chair, LPCO

The Bottom Line

by BetteRose Smith

Many people have asked me how the convention did this year. For some of us, that is an accounting in numbers. Here are the approximate numbers for the convention.

There were 93 people who paid for some part of the convention. One was for lunch only, several were for the banquet only, some for one day passes, and many for the entire convention.

Victory 2000 bought lunch and the banquet for another 13 people. Many of the Victory 2000 attendees were people who were signed on through our convention. Thanks goes to Gene Cisewski for bringing this wonderful program to Denver.

There were at least two reporters who attended parts of the convention. There may have been a few more because I know the Glendale Tea Party and Jon Caldara were both interviewed, but I was not made aware of who the reporters were.

We had two volunteers who sat at the registration desk and did not attend the convention who were not counted among the 93.

Our guest speakers were not included in the 93. These were Gene Burns and his companion, David Nolan and his wife, Michael Cloud, and George Getz.

There were also nine speakers who did not pay for any part of the convention because they were there during their talk only. These included Jon Caldara, Debbie Matthews, Chuck Bonniwell, David Kopel, the home school panel, the social security speakers and Paul Grant. **All** other speakers, any who attended the convention paid **full** price for their tickets. Their time was a donation to the convention and to those attending. Many special thanks to our speakers who volunteered their time to make this convention so successful.

Our total attendance, counting everyone who attended something, was 123.

The convention brought in just over \$8,100 in ticket sales. The convention costs ran just over \$8,800. This includes \$4,400 for the

banquet, lunch, coffees and guest rooms (for our guest speakers); \$2,000 for air transportation, honoraria and ground transportation for our speakers; approximately \$1,600 for advertising; \$500 for awards; and the remainder was spent for incidentals like name badges, ribbons, copying costs, and postage for confirmation letters to our speakers.

The auction money was donated by the state board of directors to offset the cost of the awards. The banquet fund raiser brought in just over \$2,700. (For an exact accounting, contact David Bryant.) All proceeds were turned over to the Libertarian Party of Colorado for use in the Half-A-Slate campaign.

Anyone wishing to see the actual books on the convention may contact me after June 5. We should have the books ready for inspection by that time.

We fell short of our goal of 100 paid attendees, but still feel the convention was a great success. Three people new to the Libertarian Party became members at this convention. There were two **articles** in the Rocky Mountain News which mentioned our convention. I **fielded** over ten calls from interested "outsiders." We had reporters **attend** part of the convention and one wrote an opinion piece on it! This has been a convention to remember.

Looking forward to another great convention next year!



BetteRose Smith enjoys a well-deserved bouquet of roses given in appreciation for her superb fund-raising and Convention-organizing skills.

Calendar

June, 1998

- 6/1 - Mon - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E. 18th Ave. #309, Denver CO 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00, call for directions.
- 6/2 - Tue - Boulder Activists' Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, Boulder, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 6/4 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm, Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, snack and conversation at 6:00pm, watch Waco - The Rules of Engagement afterwards, call Tom Goonan, 303-278-1698.
- 6/6-6/7 - S/S - People's Fair - Denver's Civic Center Park - 10am to 7pm. Our premier outreach event of the year has the opportunity to reach 300,000 people. You'll have the chance to meet all sorts of people, see all sorts of exhibits and booths, do lots of people watching, and have loads of fun. Volunteer now! Call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 6/9 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, Boulder, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 6/10 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 6/13 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 6/13 - Sat - Denver Potluck Supper - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334. Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks, plates, and utensils will be provided. If you don't have any ideas for what to bring, check the deli in your local supermarket.
- 6/15 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.

- 6/16 - Tue - Boulder Activists' Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, Boulder, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 6/20 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 6/23 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 6/27 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC - 1-202-333-0008. Major Speakers: Roy Innis, Congress of Racial Equality; Tanya Metaksa, National Rifle Association. Delegates will participate in debates on our platform and bylaws. Lots of workshops and other speakers including Harry Browne, 1996 LP presidential candidate.
- 7/2 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm, Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, snack and conversation at 6:00pm, watch Waco - The Rules of Engagement afterwards, call Tom Goonan, (303) 278-1698
- 7/13 - Mon - (changed to avoid conflict with Convention) Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E. 18th Ave. #309, Denver CO 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00, call for directions.

November, 1998

- 11/3 - Election Day - Vote Libertarian! 7am to 7pm at your local polling place.

Kudos

- Jim Misa, David Bryant, Maralyn Mencarini, BetteRose Smith, David Aitken, Ron Parrish and Stuart Barr for great discussions and excellent glue-stick handling while mailing out the May Liberty. Call Jim Misa at 303-394-4688 to join in the rollicking discussions and get some hands-on work done for liberty.

- Special thanks to Sara Wilson for running the session on greedy capitalists at the State Convention, and for the package materials that she put together for convention visitors with her own funds.
- Once again, very special thanks to all the hardworking Libertarians who helped out with the 1998 Convention. You truly built a foundation for freedom in Colorado.

Join Our Hot List!

Would you like to make a BIG impact on the Legislature? Join the Libertarian e-mail list to stay on top of all the action. Please send your e-mail address to DeronD@netlords.com and ask to be added to the Libertarian hot list.

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Colophon:

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The John Voss Story: Government Out Of Control

by John Voss

Chapter Four - Assaults, Armed and Otherwise

The association membership increased almost exponentially after the strong First Amendment decision of *In re First National Bank of Englewood*. Within a year of the ruling, we were sending our newsletter and other educational materials out to new members throughout the nation. We held annual conventions in Denver, and traveled as far away as New York, Florida, and Hawaii to present educational seminars.

We encouraged members to establish their own barter and exchange centers within their home states, where Americans of like mind could get acquainted, barter, exchange their paper money for gold and silver coin, hold regular seminars and develop organized political clout.

The IRS investigation continued as our National Commodity and Barter Association (NCBA) grew, but became a covert operation. Agents operating undercover joined as members, attended meetings, and in some instances attempted to encourage questionable activities such as affiliating with other groups prone to more violent protest (e.g. the Ku Klux Klan) or those few disgruntled Americans desirous of taking up arms against the government. When NCBA members ridiculed such suggestions, the undercover agents fabricated stories about successful drug trafficking or illegal gambling and attempted to get a member to accept large sums of cash in exchange for silver or gold coin thus attempting the entrapment of the member into an act of money laundering. We sued them for such "agent provocateur" efforts after they were discovered, but a federal district court judge held again that "they were just doing their jobs."

John Grandbouche and Jerry Manka served their prison sentences in 1983. Because of his health problems, John had been released after only six months. His two weeks of intensive care at the city hospital in Lexington, Kentucky had cost the prison system over \$20,000, and they

were anxious to release him before he cost them even more. At everyone's urging, John did slow his pace a bit, but not enough to regain his health over the next year.

Having completed a paperback book about NCBA's advocacy and the warehouse exchange alternative to the Federal Reserve banking scheme, John pushed to get it into print and distribution. The first printing of 10,000 was completed in early 1984. Advertising and marketing *A Declaration of Financial Independence* certainly spread the word of what we were doing to promote money and tax reform, but it also spurred the IRS to another level of activity in order to stop us.

Around noon of Good Friday, April 5, 1985, approximately two dozen armed and flak-jacketed IRS agents and U.S. Marshals entered our Denver office and took it over at gunpoint. I looked up to find myself facing a young and very nervous agent, leveling a cocked .357 magnum revolver at my face, from just across my desk. They refused to identify themselves to any of us, but bodily ejected us into the building hallway and began rifling through our files. I demanded to see a search warrant or a court order but none was produced.

The sheriff's office and Denver police refused to respond to my calls. When the attorney who had assisted us with our previous court battles with the IRS arrived, he attempted to get the lead agent, a Larry Bergsgaard, to read the court's order in *In re First National Bank* and acknowledge that this raid action was in violation of that order. The agent wasn't interested.

By nightfall, the agents had carted off records, \$18,000 worth of computers, books, mail that had just been delivered and was yet unopened, and about \$2.2 million worth of silver and gold coin being held on account or readied for shipment to NCBA members. These items were seized from two Denver office locations. We learned later that similar raids had been executed against several other NCBA offices: a total of seven offices in six different states. By year end, the IRS had raided six more locations in California, Oregon, Washington, and Georgia.

Within a week of the Denver raid, our complaint was heard in the Denver Federal District Court. Judge John Kane heard testimony for several

hours, then ruled that the IRS actions had been illegal. He ordered everything to be returned, and labeled all of it "tainted" by the illegal raid, holding that even though the IRS now had all the membership records they had sought previously, they could not even keep or use photocopies because they were the fruits of an illegal search and seizure.

We were elated by his decision. The IRS appealed it, of course, but by September, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals had affirmed the lower court, in full. (See *Voss v. Bergsgaard*, 774 F.2d 402 (10th Cir. 1985).) Finally, in mid-December, they returned everything, except the silver and gold coin. Their justification for keeping the \$2.2 million was a penalty they decided to level against us. We were some kind of a "tax shelter," they claimed, and an illegal or "abusive" one at that. They calculated a \$20 million abusive tax shelter penalty (IR Code Section 6700) and the judge told us that we had no choice but to contest it through the administrative and judicial processes.

The contesting of the \$20 million penalty dragged on for eight years. Finally, when the IRS had exhausted every possible delaying tactic and we were scheduled to go to trial, they admitted that they could not support their \$20 million contention.

Instead of returning the money at that point, they concocted another penalty, this time claiming we were not simply an association of citizens working for reform, but some kind of a partnership. As a partnership, they argued, each member was responsible for filing an individual partnership tax return for each year of membership. Since no one had done so (this was our first "notice" that we were viewed as a partnership), the IRS calculated that \$4.2 million in penalties for failure to file such returns (IR Code section 6698) was owed.

Another court fight. This time, to our utter amazement, the IRS prevailed. The Tenth Circuit upheld Judge Richard Matsch's 1993 decision that we were a partnership by default—Judge Matsch had concluded that we just couldn't continue to exist and be deliberately formless, or "amorphous" so that the IRS would be unable to tax us as a corporation, partnership, or something!

We of course appealed this latest injury all the way to the Supreme

Court, but the Court wasn't interested. In December of 1994 we were informed, without explanation of course, that our petition for review was denied. We'll examine this latest penalty in more detail later.

Dropping back again to the year 1985, the year of the armed raids, the relentless assault by the IRS was taking its toll on John. Promoting his book, continuing to travel and give seminars, and battling the IRS in the courts increasingly fatigued him. By the end of the year, he asked me to assume his responsibilities as director, and oversee the office in addition to my publishing the monthly newsletter and semi-monthly updates to the educational looseleafs.

The IRS focus seemed to change. In January of 1986, I was charged with two counts of wilful failure to file tax returns. I was acquitted by a jury after a two-day trial in June. But John Grandbouché didn't live to see it. He died of a sudden heart attack in May, on his way to pay a Mother's Day visit to his 90-year-old mother, who lived in western Colorado. John was 64.

The next several years seemed to fly by. If I wasn't in court on a hearing involving the IRS, I was being interviewed on radio talk shows, or giving a talk at a "freedom movement" convention somewhere.

We not only maintained our headquarters office in Denver, we expanded the Mutual Assistance Plan (MAP) that Mitchell Beals and John had formulated and announced at our annual convention in 1985. Calls for legal assistance, which the Plan provided, increased after the raid. The IRS had kept copies of the membership records even though they were ordered not to, and their harassment and prosecution of NCBA members increased.

In trials of members charged with tax misdemeanors, tax felonies, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to avoid currency reporting, mail fraud, and conspiracy, I gave testimony as NCBA director as to exactly what the goals and purposes of our association were. We won the majority of nearly 400 such cases, but there were casualties. The IRS even concocted a tax assessment against my wife, though it had absolutely no basis in fact.

In 1988, we filed a lawsuit against Bergsgaard and the other raiding IRS agents for the damages their illegal

1985 raid had caused us. Thus far (1997), they have successfully dodged all of our efforts to bring them to trial.

A few months into the lawsuit for damages, one of the Assistant U.S. Attorneys (ASUAs) representing the IRS agents left government service and joined a private law firm. He subsequently confided to an attorney with the firm which represented me in my 1986 wilful failure case that the IRS had been very disappointed when I was acquitted. His warning was, "They're not through with Voss yet. Tell him to watch out for further prosecutorial efforts, including entrapment, etc. They intend to put him and NCBA out of operation."

Sure enough, whether it was in response to our suit for damages, or just because they still felt that what we were doing had to be quashed, in 1989 the IRS instigated another grand jury investigation of our activities. Little did I suspect that ultimately their efforts would succeed in placing me in prison, along with Mitch Beals and his brother Brent, who had managed the MAP and NCE services of NCBA, respectively.

After all, the IRS was the group engaged in illegal or at least questionable tactics; we were simply attempting peaceful change through lawful but determined actions, such as boycott, court challenges, educational seminars and active support of constitutionally-oriented candidates for office.

Once again, a grand jury issued subpoenas for association records. Grand juries these days are simply tools of investigation for the Assistant U.S. Attorney, who directs them. I'm sure the AUSA in this instance was directed to "get NCBA" by his supervisors at the Department of Justice, who in turn had been duly convinced of our "dangerousness" by the IRS.

The subpoenas were not directed to a bank this time, nor to any of us directing or managing the association or its services. Instead, the subpoenas were directed to the association, *per se*. In response, our attorney filed an action to challenge the subpoenas, on behalf of the association.

Because of the earlier rulings in *In re First National Bank of Englewood*, we expected the court to insist on a strong showing by the government of probable cause that would override First Amendment protections of members' names and affiliation.

Instead, Chief District Court Judge Finesilver accepted an IRS agent's weak explanation that he and his associates had labored for hundreds of hours, poring over 15,000 bank records they had already obtained (unbeknownst to us), and that without the names of our members and information which would allow them to tie the names to NCE warehouse exchange accounts, they could not determine if any laws had been broken.

In other words, they were on another "fishing expedition" and expected the court to help them catch someone violating some law, even though they only suspected that the exchange services could be being misused.

Incredibly, without the requisite showing of probable cause, the Judge ordered compliance with the subpoenas. Polling the members, the attorney was directed to appeal this decision. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Chief Judge Finesilver's order. See *NCBA v. U.S.*, 972 F.2d 356 (10th Cir. 1982). The Supreme Court refused our petition for review.

The members instructed us to continue to defend their privacy, as the simple one page principal/agent contract between the members and the manager of the warehouse exchange had always required, even if it meant that the association might be found in contempt of Judge Finesilver's order.

Sure enough, when the subpoenaed information was not forthcoming, the AUSA demanded that NCBA be held in contempt. Judge Finesilver imposed a fine of \$50 per day, to run until NCBA complied, or the grand jury's 18-month term expired, whichever came first. The latter occurred first, and the fine imposed on the association ultimately accrued to \$36,000.

With the subsequent empanelment of another grand jury, another round of subpoenas were issued. They were again directed to the association, but this time they were delivered to Mitch and Brent Beals and me personally.

Again we challenged the subpoenas in court. Again we lost, and again we appealed all the way to the Supreme Court. When our petition to the Supreme Court was denied and the information was still not forthcoming,

ing, the AUSA asked the grand jury to issue an indictment he had written, charging us with conspiracy to defeat the income tax laws, structuring financial transactions with members to evade the currency reporting laws, and contempt of court.

Even though two dozen or more NCBA members had been called before the grand jury and I myself had testified as to our activities and goals and no conclusive evidence had emerged that confirmed the AUSA's accusations, the grand jury foreman was persuaded to sign the indictment so that we could be brought to trial. He signed it on the last day of the 18-month grand jury session, May 7, 1993, and we began preparing for trial.

Chapter 5 of the John Voss story will continue in next month's Liberty.

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" —H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927

Tea Party Rules

by Bert Weiner

I got home from work and there was a message on my machine. It was BetteRose Smith, something about some strippers wanting to fight city hall. I called her immediately. She told me about the Glendale city council passing laws aimed at putting Shotgun Willie's and the Mile Hi Saloon out of business, and that the owners and employees were determined to defend themselves. She gave me the time and place of their next meeting/party.

The Tea Party (TP) party was a revelation. The TP had already gotten the solid support of almost every business in Glendale. The current council and mayor had spent a great deal of time and effort alienating everybody in town, and had succeeded admirably. Everything from Joe Rice (the mayor) telling a citizen during a council meeting, "Rights? you don't have any rights," to councilcritter Peg (the mayor's sidekick) trying to force Glendale

homeowners to plant flowers in their yards (she likes flowers) and telling a prospective victim, "We're the city council and we can do anything we want," made the citizens of Glendale ready for a new regime.

And Debbie Mathews, Mike Dunafon and Chuck Bonniwell were just the ones to give it to them. Less than a week after forming the TP they had detailed maps of the town with teams assigned to each neighborhood and multiple teams for the larger apartment complexes. They were recruiting candidates, registering voters, raising money, and having a great time along the way. My kind of party.

Carpe Wha??

It turns out that neither the LP nor I really had much to offer the TP. They were doing a superb job in all aspects of political organizing. And better yet, their opponents were a collection of bona fide buffoons. When I admitted to Mike that we couldn't do much for him, he smiled and said to have fun, talk politics, and come back next week.

I'll get to the "talk politics" part in a minute, but first the tee shirts. Mike and Debbie designed a beautiful tee shirt with the TP symbol on front and back. At the bottom of the symbol were the words "Carpe Deum" or, in English "seize God." They had meant to say "Carpe Diem" or "seize the day" but had mixed up the spelling. Everyone was amused and the wording was never changed.

The party was great. It was held at a Glendale bar with free drinks and food. That first week the people were mostly dancers from Shotguns. That was fine with me, and as the mix changed over the succeeding weeks a little of the magic went out of it. Oh well.

At the following parties I tried to talk politics, but it was hard — almost everybody immediately agreed with the whole libertarian philosophy upon first hearing it and I was quickly compelled to change from selling philosophy to selling commitment. I spent more time convincing people to register Libertarian and join the LP than convincing them of the rightness of our cause. There were a few people who still needed persuasion. Some of these came around towards libertarianism and I made real friendships with a few of them.

Shaken AND Stirred

At the first party I struck up a conversation with a very lovely woman named Bonnie. She and her boyfriend had just moved here and she was working at Shotguns while he looked for work. He entered the conversation and started reading some of the LP literature that BetteRose Smith and Michelle Bethke had left on the tables. I left Bonnie and Eric to chat with somebody at the other end of the room.

A few minutes later Eric approached me. He looked unwell, as if he were suffering vertigo or seasickness. He asked if I would come over and talk to him when possible. I quickly wrapped up the other conversation and rejoined Bonnie and Eric at their table. Here are Eric's words — "I agree with everything in here (brandishing a handful of LP literature), I thought nobody else thought about things the way I do. What can I do to help?" The next week they had both registered LP and were close to sending in their dues. How many thousands more are there in Colorado who just need exposure to real libertarians before they'll have the inspiration to join us in our cause?

The Tea Party succeeded in making Glendale safe from despotic rule for the present. They showed me that the time is ripe for the Libertarian Party to make our country safe from tyranny for all time. Carpe Diem.



Bert Weiner enjoying the party at Tim Slagle's Friday night comicfest during Convention '98.

Treat IRS Agents as Criminals

WASHINGTON, DC — Gestapo-like IRS agents who storm the homes of innocent Americans, destroy property, and terrorize children at gunpoint should be prosecuted for felony assault, grand larceny, and extortion, demanded the Libertarian Party today.

"Forget about more Congressional hearings: People who behave like street thugs ought to be prosecuted like street thugs," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman. "Congress shouldn't be scheduling hearings — it should be scheduling criminal trials for IRS agents who terrorize innocent Americans."

Dasbach's comments came in response to Senate Finance Committee hearings on April 29, where a parade of frightened witnesses shared shocking tales of abuse at the hands of gangs of "paramilitary" IRS agents.

The stories were so outrageous that even Senator Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) described the actions of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division as "government violence directed against citizens."

One witness, whose house was ransacked by armed IRS agents, said, "I used to believe that such things could only happen in a Communist-bloc country, or a police state."

But Dasbach said Libertarians weren't even mildly surprised at the testimony.

"What do you expect when you grant vast powers to heavily armed government agents, and then instruct them to seize more than \$700 billion annually from American citizens? Of course these kinds of abuses are going to happen," he said.

But the bipartisan Senate response — to what they admitted were "fascist" and "Gestapo" IRS tactics — was to call for vague IRS reforms, noted Dasbach.

"It's hard to decide what's more outrageous: The crimes committed by government employees or the cavalier way this criminal-coddling Congress responds to them," he said. "You have to wonder if these Senators are really seeking justice — or just seeking publicity."

Libertarians have a better solution,

said Dasbach: Charge the IRS agents with the same crimes they would be charged with if they were "ordinary" criminals, instead of criminals in government uniforms.

For example, here are some criminal charges that could be filed immediately, based just on the testimony from this one hearing:

- Extortion: A team of 64 armed IRS agents swarmed into the business of oil executive W.A. Moncrief of Fort Worth, Texas, in September 1994, seized documents, and ripped out walls. Even though they found no wrongdoing, they wouldn't quit harassing him until he agreed to pay them \$63 million.
- Criminal property destruction: After storming the restaurant owned by John Colaprete in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 1994, IRS agents raided his home, ripped off the door, and carted away his property.

- Sexual assault: Male IRS agents stormed into the home of a Virginia man who worked at a restaurant that was being audited — and forced three teenage girls to remove their clothes at gunpoint.
- Grand larceny: 15 IRS agents seized computers and other property from Oklahoma tax preparer Richard Gardner in 1995 and kept them for two years.

"In all of these cases, no charges were ever filed against taxpayers, which means the IRS knows they were innocent," Dasbach said. "And in most cases, the statute of limitations hasn't expired, which means the agents responsible for these crimes can still be tracked down, arrested, and prosecuted — and they should be."

But don't stop there, said Dasbach: "Libertarians have another suggestion. Abolish the IRS, so Americans will have one less reason to be terrified of their own government. After all, we want to live in a country where the government doesn't pay the salaries of gun-toting criminal thugs — but instead *protects* us against gun-toting criminal thugs."

— *Libertarian Party News Release*

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"Most managers give themselves excellent grades on knowing when to trust their people and when not to. But in our experience, too many managers err on the side of mistrust. They follow the basic premise that their people may operate completely autonomously, as long as they operate correctly. This amounts to no autonomy at all. The only freedom that has any meaning is the freedom to proceed differently from the way your manager would have proceeded. This is true in a broader sense, too: The right to be right (in your manager's eyes or in your government's eyes) is irrelevant; it's only the right to be wrong that makes you free."

— *Peopware: Productive Projects and Teams* by Tom DeMarco and Timothy Lister.

Is Minor Party Status a Trap?

by Judd Ptak, Legislative Director,
LPCO

At the State Libertarian Convention last month, someone asked a question which I had been asking myself and others many times over the last few months: Is there a downside to being able to nominate our candidates like the old parties? Unfortunately, we did not have time to discuss this question in any detail, so I'm going to do so now.

If the Legislature was deliberately laying a trap for us, I cannot figure out what it might be. We may find out the hard way that passing HB-98-1110 was a diversionary trap, but so far I have not been smart enough to see how.

In the case of Ron Tupa, Mark Paschal, Penn Pfiffner and Tillie Bishop, the sponsors and cosponsors, these legislators really believe it is unfair for us not to have equal access and want to do something about it.

Other legislators, like Senator Joan Johnson, are honestly looking for ways to open up the political process and increase participation, and see this as part of the answer to that problem.

Other people, like Colorado Republican Party Chairman Steve Curtis, might want to use minor parties as a stick to use to get their people to follow something of a party line. Curtis seems to think that a political party ought to stand for something, although he is having trouble getting Republicans to agree on what that something might be.

If old party activists, candidates and office holders get some third-party competition, it may be easier for party leaders to enforce some discipline, using the threat of defections to the Libertarian Party or American Constitutionalist Party as the bogeyman to keep people in line. A possible trap is that we would welcome candidates who are not really Libertarians, and lend them our name and the ballot access we have worked so hard for. Doing so would confuse whatever name recognition we have and make it harder to get our message across.

These bogus candidates would most likely re-defect back to the party they came from as soon as the election was over.

There are two safeguards against this "phony Libertarian" problem. One is that HB-98-1110 does not allow us to nominate a candidate who has been affiliated with a different party in the past year. So if someone starts through the Republican caucus system, and finds that they do not have support in the party, they cannot just come to us and have us nominate them as a "Libertarian." They would have to do so at least one year ahead of time. The other safeguard is a "poison pill" provision in our by-laws (adopted at the 1998 Convention) which allows the LPC Board of Directors to withdraw our designation of candidates if they do not



Judd Ptak received a medal from Bette Rose Smith for his heroic efforts at getting HB-98-1110 passed during the 1998 legislative session.

support Libertarian principles. I am not convinced we have the wording on this perfect, but it is a start. I hope to look at it again in 1999 to ensure that it does not start intra-party witch-hunts.

Another possible trap is running candidates just for the sake of having a name on the ballot. This does not mean that we should only run candidates in races we think we will win. It means that every candidate which we do run ought to have a specific plan to accomplish something. What that something is will vary from candidate to candidate and race to race.

The ideas Doug Anderson put forward for Project Half-a-Slate in '98 are a good start. One is for the

candidate to contact every registered Libertarian voter in his/her district and ask them to put up a yard sign. Another is to leaflet the candidate's home precinct as part of a "win one precinct" campaign. These are reasonable goals for Legislative and County Commissioner candidates. A candidate for statewide office might have a goal to take part in every televised or radio debate. All these help to build the party, get our ideas out, and/or build credibility for the party.

Even if it means fewer candidates, we should insist that every candidate which the Libertarian Party designates to the Secretary of State should have a precise, reasonable goal which will advance the party or the principles of Liberty and a plan to accomplish it.

If people see the Libertarian Party as having a bunch of candidates who never do anything, Minor Party status will backfire. A corollary of this pitfall would be to run all our best candidates for Congress or Statewide offices which we are not yet in a position to win. There are good reasons to have one or two "top of the ticket" candidates to give us some media exposure and let people across the state have at least one person to vote for, but if we do not run good candidates for winnable low level offices, thus building our candidates' name recognition and the Libertarian Party's credibility, we will never make the break into partisan office.

We need to focus on small county County Commissioners, Town and City Councils, and other low-level, mostly nonpartisan offices. Once we have winners at that level, they can then either run for higher office themselves, as elected officials, with the name recognition which goes with elected office, or endorse other candidates.

The good news is that the traps we might fall into, having received our newfound Minor Party status, are pitfalls over which we have control. The ability to have candidates on the ballot without their burning themselves and their supporters out during the petitioning process is well worth the effort to guard against these possible traps.

Denver Libertarians Plan People's Fair

by David Aitken

Denver's big event of the year will occur on June 6th and 7th at the People's Fair. It's our chance to reach more than 300,000 people with our message of liberty and responsibility, and it's your chance to have lots of fun doing it! The first weekend in June is ideal people watching time for volunteers so come on down to Civic Center Park between the state capitol and Denver's City and County building. Call David Aitken at 303-831-4334 to lend a hand.

Our weekly breakfast group continues to attract new people. We never know who will show up so why not join us on Saturday mornings at LePeep's at Colorado Blvd and Mexico at 8am. Like many libertarian things, it's not really organized; it just happens! So come on over and meet 8-10 like minded folks!

Fame and, uh, well, a little bit of fame awaits you if you carry the liberty torch into the '98 elections by becoming an educational candidate! Your name will be seen by more than 30,000 people in your neighborhood; you might even get your picture in the paper; a reporter might be interested in your ideas; and a few people might even think you're good enough to vote for!

You'll certainly meet some interesting people and your neighbors, too. Thanks to the passage of HB1110 just a few weeks ago, it's easier than ever to be a candidate. There's no petitioning, so talking to your neighbors is about all you'll have to do. Join several other dedicated Libertarians in this effort to let your friends and neighbors have a real choice this November.

Call Warren Kruse, 303-433-4604, the LP's Campaign Director, for details. Liberty Needs YOU!



Gene Burns made a Constitutional issue of California's Medical Marijuana act at the 1998 Convention Banquet.

"Professor Goddard does not know the relation between action and reaction and the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react. He seems to lack the basic knowledge ladled out daily in high schools."

—1921 New York Times editorial about Robert Goddard's revolutionary rocket work



Brian Thomas, from Massachusetts, talked about running for local School Board positions during one of the Victory 2000 seminars held at the 1998 Convention.

Come Enjoy Washington's Fourth

by David Aitken

The July 4th weekend is the time for the National LP's biannual convention and it's your chance to change the Party's platform and bylaws, as well as have a great time in our nation's capitol. There will be great speakers and fascinating debates on the issues as ordinary folks like you build the party of the 21st century.

The LP of Colorado can send 33 delegates to the convention. Only seven slots are spoken for, so your opportunity to shape our party is virtually assured. Call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, for details.

Signs Of The Times

by Tom Goonan

Here are some ideas for signs to protest the taxpayers paying for the Broncos' stadium:

- The Broncos are not homeless.
- Treat Pat like any other welfare mother.
- No Bowlen for dollars here.
- Watch'em on TV with taxes, or watch'em on TV without taxes. Which is better?
- Oklahoma City Broncos has a nice ring to it.
- Rob the poor to pay the rich — what a concept.
- Let stadium proponents buy stock.
- Taxpayers — Drop the ball, not your pants.
- Where's Robin Hood when you need him?
- Take me out of the fall game.
- Hey! Subsidize my house.
- 2 - 4 - 6 - 8, watch the cost accelerate.
- Stop playground violence.
- Extortion is a felony.
- Charity begins at home — your home.
- Tribute for touchdowns is horse pucky.
- Football gravitates to the least informed taxpayers.

Art Bell Joins Party, Generates Inquiries

by Earl Allen

Art Bell, famous late night talk show host, joined the Libertarian Party during his show on May 5 and 6 (the show runs through midnight, Pacific Time). His guest on the show was Harry Browne, LP Presidential candidate for 1996.

50 Coloradoans called the national LP 800 number requesting information. Tom Goonan, our new Outreach Director, received those names and phone numbers and could use some help contacting this windfall of inquiries. Call Tom at (303) 202-9069 to help Tom reach out to some new Libertarians.

If there's one LP event you shouldn't miss in 1998, it's the National Convention — the biggest, most exciting political bash of the decade!

More than 1,000 delegates will be at Convention '98 in Washington DC (July 2-5). Will you be one of them? If not, you'll miss the chance to . . .

- Vote on changes to the LP Platform.
- Select LP leadership for the next two years.
- Hear a fascinating all-star line-up of libertarian speakers and panels.
- Enjoy the huge vendor & exhibitor area.
- Attend the candi-

Educational. Energizing. Informative. History-making. Exciting. Course-setting. Stimulating.

C'mon — do you need any more reasons to attend the National LP Convention?

date & activist training sessions.

■ Celebrate the LP's success at the gala Saturday night banquet & awards ceremony.

■ Meet hundreds of enthusiastic fellow Libertarian activists.

Over the past several years, the party has grown to more than 25,000 members, with more than 250 office-holders. That's why the theme of the Convention is "The Road to Victory" — so we can celebrate what we've accomplished so far, and plan for the future.

You'll be part of that Libertarian future — and Convention '98 is your opportunity to play a major role in shaping it. But only if you register today!

SIGN ME UP FOR THE ROAD TO



Sign me up for the following package(s): (Prices good until May 31):

[] **GOLD** \$289 [] **SILVER** \$229 [] **BRONZE** \$139

Prices after June 1st — and then good until July 1st:

[] **GOLD** \$319 [] **SILVER** \$259 [] **BRONZE** \$169

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■ Special Needs?

Please let us know if you have any special needs or other requirements. We should know about:

- ☐ Visual ☐ Mobility ☐ Hearing
☐ Dietary ☐ Other: _____

■ To Register:

Mail to: 1998 National LP Convention
3600 16th Street, NW ★ Washington, DC 20010
Questions? Call toll-free: (800) 722-5141
Fax: (202) 234-3884
Via e-mail: LPNATCONV@aol.com

NOTE: PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE.

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4841 Raleigh St., Denver CO 80212

U.S. Congressional District 2

Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Warren Kruse at

(303) 433-4604

U.S. Congressional District 3

Carol Stuckey Hill (719) 486-3130

424 East 11th, Leadville CO 80461

U.S. Congressional District 4

Randy Fitzgerald (970) 223-6025

413 Skysail Lane, Fort Collins CO 80525

U.S. Congressional District 5

Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Warren Kruse at

(303) 433-4604

U.S. Congressional District 6

Bob Hogan (303) 978-9803

38 Blue Sage, Littleton CO 80123

If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local contact and you'd consider being one, please contact Outreach Director Tom Goonan. A local area can be anything that makes sense. It does not have to be a county.

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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

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What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the *initiation* of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you *do* have a right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you cannot use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical, or religious goals. This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

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